

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Final Office Action issued May 1, 2007. Issuance of an Advisory Action is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-24. Claims 1, 4, and 5 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 23 and 24 have been cancelled.

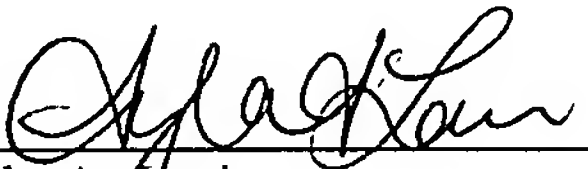
Claims 1, 2, 6, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Palestrant (US 4425908). Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 14-19, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Freudenthal et al. (US 7097653). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Freudenthal in view of Rulz (US 5976174). Claims 11, 13 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Freudenthal in view of Huebsch et al. (US 6117159). Claims 12, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the combination of Freudenthal and Huebsch and further in view of Neuss et al. (US 6355052).

Claims 1-22 are believed to be allowable over the cited references. In particular, the presently claimed device has loops that are formed by wires that extend from a first end cap to a second end cap. Loops are disposed on a first side relative to a central body and also on the other side relative to the central body. This configuration is distinguishable over the cited art. In particular, Palestrant does not include a second end cap or third and fourth loops disposed on the other side of the central body from the first and second loops. Further, Freudenthal is formed by cutting slits in a tube and not formed by wires. Accordingly, Freudenthal has a completely different construction from the presently claimed invention. The other cited references do not provide the missing limitations. Accordingly, the presently claimed device is novel and non-obvious over the cited art.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. No fees are believed to be due in connection with this response. However, please charge any fees due in connection with this application or credit any overpayments to Deposit Acct. No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

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